

CLAIMS

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1. A method for sequencing a plurality of tasks performed or controlled by a computer, comprising:
- a) placing task objects in a directional field having a directional attribute, wherein said task objects represent the tasks to be performed by said computer; and
 - b) sequencing, by said computer, of one or more of the task objects in the directional field based on the relative spatial location of the task objects in the directional field and the directional attribute of the directional field.
2. The sequencing method of claim 1 further including the step of re-sequencing said task objects by changing the relative spatial location of the task objects in the directional field.
3. The sequencing method of claim 1 further including the step of selecting a directional attribute for the directional field.
4. The sequencing method of claim 1 wherein said task objects have one or more modifiable properties for controlling the behavior of the task objects.
5. The sequencing method of claim 4 wherein one of said modifiable properties is used to include or exclude a task object in the directional field from said sequence.

6. The sequencing method of claim 4 wherein at least one of the modifiable properties specifies the tasks to be performed by the task object.

7. The sequencing method of claim 1 further including the step of placing, a master object in the directional field for initiating said sequence of tasks.

8. The sequencing method of claim 7 wherein said task objects are responsive to said master object to perform their associated tasks.

9. The sequencing method of claim 8 further including the step of defining a limited region of influence for said master object, wherein said master object is used to initiate a sequence including task objects falling within the region of influence of the master object.

10. The sequencing method of claim 9 wherein the sequence includes only those task objects falling within the region of influence of the master object.

11. The sequencing method of claim 8 including a plurality of master objects, each of which has a region of influence, wherein at least one master object is responsive to activation of one or more other master objects to initiate sequencing of task objects within its own control region.

12. The sequencing method of claim 8 further including the steps of selecting a type for each task object from a list of pre-defined types, wherein each master object is programmed

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to sequence only task objects of certain specified types.

13. The sequencing method of claim 12 further including the step of defining a general type for master objects for sequencing task objects of all types.

14. A method for sequencing a plurality of tasks performed or controlled by a computer comprising:

- a) displaying on a computer display a user interface having a directional field;
- b) placing in response to user input, task objects in said directional field, wherein said task objects represent the tasks to be performed by said computer;
- c) selecting a directional attribute for said directional field;
- d) sequencing, by said computer, of one or more of the task objects in the directional field based on the relative spatial location of the task objects in the directional field and the directional attribute of the directional field.

15. The sequencing method of claim 14 further including the step of re-sequencing said task objects by changing the relative spatial location of the task objects in the directional field.

16. The sequencing method of claim 14 wherein said task objects have one or more modifiable properties for controlling the behavior of the task objects.

17. The sequencing method of claim 16 wherein one of said modifiable properties is used to include or exclude a task object in the directional field from said sequence.

18. The sequencing method of claim 16 wherein at least one of the user-definable properties is used to specify the tasks to be performed by the task object.

19. The sequencing method of claim 14 further including the step of placing, a master object in the directional field for initiating said sequence of tasks.

20. The sequencing method of claim 19 wherein said task objects are responsive to said master object to perform their associated tasks.

21. The sequencing method of claim 20 further including the step of defining a limited region of influence for said master object, wherein said master object is used to initiate a sequence including task objects falling within the region of influence of the master object.

22. The sequencing method of claim 21 wherein the sequence includes only those task objects falling within the region of influence of the master object.

23. The sequencing method of claim 20 including a plurality of master objects, each of which has a region of influence, wherein at least one master object is responsive to activation of one or more other master objects to initiate sequencing of task objects within its own region of

influence.

24. The sequencing method of claim 20 further including the steps of selecting a type for each task object from a pre-defined list of types, wherein each master object is programmed to sequence only task objects of certain specified types.

25. The sequencing method of claim 24 further including the step of defining a general type for master objects for sequencing task objects of all types.

26. A computing method for displaying information to a user and receiving input from a user, comprising:

- a) displaying a three-dimensional object in a 3-D virtual environment on a computer display, wherein said menu object includes both exterior and interior surfaces; and
- b) displaying information on both the interior and exterior surfaces of said object so that it is visible to the user when the user is inside or outside the object;

27. The computing method of claim 26 wherein menu items are displayed on both the interior and exterior surfaces of the object.

28. The computing method of claim 27 further including the step of selecting, in response to user input, one of the menu items on an interior or exterior surface of the menu object.